

























## OPINION

# Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



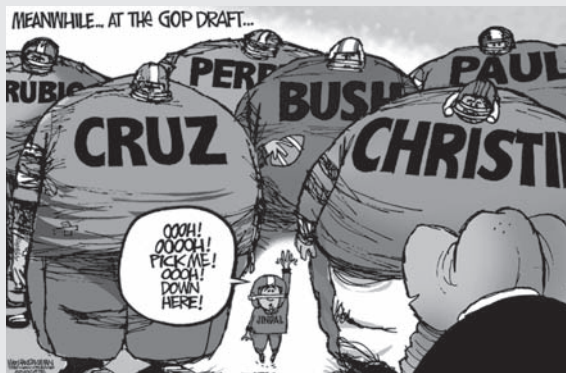
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## MILITARY

# TRIALS

## by fire

A photo essay by  
Pat Semansky ■ The Associated Press



Daniel Smart, of Miami, winces as a fellow midshipman helps him with a leg cramp on May 13 during Sea Trials, a day of physical and mental challenges for freshman midshipmen, known as "plebes," that caps their first year at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.



Phillip Metcalfe, of Plano, Texas, screams as he helps lift a log.

**A**t 3 a.m. on May 13, the freshman class at the U.S. Naval Academy, known as plebes, embarked on a 14-hour day of physical and mental challenges known as Sea Trials. The endurance challenge caps their first year at the academy in Annapolis, Md.

Heat and humidity only make the day more rigorous — to fight cramps, some carry bottles of mustard in their pockets. The trials test the plebes' teamwork and endurance, while bringing them closer together.

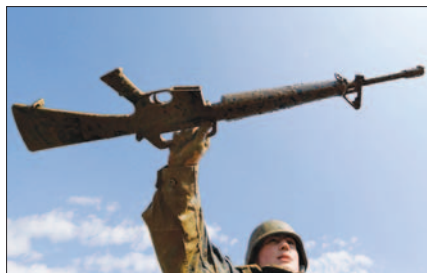
Sea Trials are modeled after the Marine Corps' Crucible and the Navy's Battle Stations recruit programs, according to the Navy.



A plebe, on the heels of a fellow freshman, crawls through a muddy trench beneath barbed wire.



Midshipmen hoist sandbags while performing bicycle kicks.



A muddy plebe holds up a fake rifle.



Jonathan Freel, of Houston, downs some mustard from a squeeze bottle in an attempt to avoid cramps during a short break in Sea Trials.



Plebes perform sit-ups on the banks of the Severn River.































## SPORTS



## Opening shots

Rangers seize home-ice advantage with Game 1 rout of Canadiens | **Page 25**

## 139th PREAKNESS STAKES



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Jockey Victor Espinoza, below, celebrates aboard California Chrome after winning the 139th Preakness Stakes.

GARRY JONES/AP

California Chrome, above, ridden by jockey Victor Espinoza, wins the 139th Preakness Stakes at the Pimlico Race Course on Saturday in Baltimore.

# Raising the stakes

## California Chrome keeps Triple Crown dreams alive with victory at Pimlico

BY BETH HARRIS  
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — It gets even harder from here on out for California Chrome.

He won easily in his home state of California, he dazzled in the Kentucky Derby and he dug deep to win the Preakness on Saturday.

Now comes the toughest test of all, the Belmont

Stakes in three weeks.

The chestnut colt with four white feet will attempt to sweep the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont, something that hasn't been done since Affirmed in 1978. Since then, 12 horses have won the first two legs and failed to complete the sweep in the 1½-mile Belmont; the last was I'll Have Another, who was scratched on the eve of the Belmont two years ago.

"You have to have a very good horse

to win these three races," said Art Sherman, the winning 77-year-old trainer. "I'm hoping I've got one right now."

Maybe the horse with the modest pedigree and average Joe owners is the one.

California Chrome defeated Ride On Curlin by 1½ lengths in the Preakness, covering 1⅞ miles in 1:54.84 on a sunny and cool day at Pimlico.

**SEE STAKES ON PAGE 30**

Thunder remain confident despite loss of shot-blocker Ibaka | **Page 24**

Mustangs, Panthers appear to be peaking at right time | **Page 22**

